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COMMENT OF THE DAY

The Lion's Den

RISING in the House of Lords last week to answer strong criticism of the British Government's "decadent mentality" towards maritime defence, Lord Carrington (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Defence) quipped: "I feel rather like Daniel in the lion's den but with no faith that a comparable miracle will occur." Three veteran Admirals of the Fleet told the Government that the Royal Navy had neither the ships nor the men to defend the Merchant Navy and they expressed grave doubts about the ability of our existing cruiser fleet to stand up to the powerful modern cruisers of the Russian Navy should war break out. They complained that since the war, not one new cruiser had been built, that the policy appeared to be "Do not build—wait for the scientists." Lord Carrington made the somewhat alarming reply that the Government was aware of the ageing cruiser problem and, in classical Whitchall officialese, told the Admirals: "As soon as it is possible to see clearly what kind of ships would be required to meet the conditions of naval warfare in the future, important decisions will be made." Meanwhile experiments with old cruisers are continuing to determine the characteristics of the atomic-age vessel. But there is a danger in waiting too long for the scientists and the specialists and a firm decision will have to be taken soon.

IT is all very well for the strategists to say that, in the event of another war the Russian cruiser will be matched "against" British, American, French—in fact the combined fleets of NATO nations which include at least 110 cruisers, over 230 battleships and about 130 aircraft carriers, and well over a thousand destroyers, frigates and escort vessels. Adequate numbers in themselves are not the complete answer to the question. Britain and the NATO powers must be able to match the Russians with all the latest weapons as well. It is useless trying to counter-attack an enemy armed with guided missiles, with six or eight-inch shells. It is like shooting a pop-gun at somebody armed with a sub-machine gun.

EVEN more alarming is the modernisation programme for the Royal Air Force. Where are the Hunters, Swifts and Javelins that should have gone into service with the R.A.F. this year in "large numbers"? So far there is one squadron of Swifts and one squadron of Hunters. There are 400 American and Canadian Sabreets in the Air Force and the rest of the squadrons are equipped with Meteors, originally built about 10 years ago though improved upon since, and obsolete Vampires and Venoms which are 100-200 m.p.h. slower than their Soviet counterparts, the MIG fighters. Where are Britain's new V-bombers which have been on show for 18 months now? It seems that not one has yet been delivered to the R.A.F. Hong Kong should have something more modern than Meteors, Vampires and Mosquitos but we are not likely to get any new jet aircraft until the Swifts and Hunters have completely replaced existing old-fashioned fighters in Europe. The Government says: "Production has not come up to expectation." The producers blame Government specialists for the delay because they demand so many modifications. The scientists are certain to argue that they are only trying to keep the R.A.F. abreast of the galloping pace of scientific development. That may be all very well but if we get no modern aircraft and no modern ships in the meantime, science rather defeats its own purpose. The R.A.F. had the same trouble before the last war when Frank Whittle was trying to persuade the authorities to adopt the jet engine. Unless we utilise our scientific achievements for the armed services properly, undoubted infinite progress will remain unfulfilled.

NEW PEKING ATTACK ON U.N. ACTION But Still No Reply To Hammarskjold's Cable COLOMBO POWERS MAY OFFER TO MEDIATE

New York, Dec. 14.
Radio Peking tonight made another attack on the proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Dag Hammarskjold to visit Peking to discuss with Communist Chinese leaders the dispute over the 11 American airmen imprisoned on spying charges. But it did not say whether Chinese officials would meet Mr Hammarskjold.

Other developments today were:

- United Nations officials denied reports that Peking had replied to Mr Hammarskjold's cable;
- The Ceylonese Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, indicated that the Colombo powers at their Djakarta conference this month may seek the role of mediator between Communist China and the United States in the dispute;
- The Times Delhi correspondent and the Indian newspaper, Statesman, confirmed reports that the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Nehru, had sent a personal message to Mr Chou En-lai urging him to agree to meet Mr Hammarskjold.

Radio Peking today said that the United Nations has absolutely no right to interfere with the judgment by China against the 11 American airmen imprisoned on spy charges.

But the radio broadcast monitored in Tokyo stopped short of rejecting the bid of U.N. Secretary-General Mr Dag Hammarskjold for a conference in Peking on U.N. demands for release of the airmen.

THIRD TIME

It was the third time in three days that Communist China denounced the U.N. action to free the U.S. airmen without mentioning Mr Hammarskjold's request for a meeting with the Premier, Mr Chou En-lai.

The broadcast said, "The fact that the U.N. debated the proposal under U.S. pressure will leave a big stain on the history of the U.N."

"The U.N. Charter stipulates that the United Nations cannot interfere in matters which are intrinsically domestic affairs of any country. Therefore the United Nations has absolutely no right to step into the judgment by China against U.S. spies."

U.S. "VIOLATION"

The United States violated the Korean Armistice Agreement, broke the P.O.W. repatriation agreement and several times took away several tens of thousands of Chinese and Korean P.O.W.s and forced them into the armed forces of Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek. It is evil acts of this type which the U.N. should take up for study.

"It is a poor show put on by the United States. In the U.N., some countries' delegates, like delegate Nutting of Great Britain, slandered the Chinese people..."

The broadcast concluded, "cannot hide the crimes of the American spies who were dropped from the sides."

STILL NO REPLY
United Nations officials said today that Mr Dag Hammarskjold, the Secretary-General, had still not received a reply from Peking to his offer.

It is four days since Mr Hammarskjold despatched a cable to Mr Chou En-lai suggesting a meeting between them soon after the General Assembly on Friday requested Mr Hammarskjold to take the men's release by means he thought most appropriate.

MEDIATION OFFER
In Honolulu, the Ceylonese Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, indicated that the Colombo Powers in their conference this month in Djakarta may seek the role of a mediator between Communist China and the United States in an effort to settle the dispute over the gaoling of 11 American aviators on spy charges.

He did not say how the Colombo Powers might mediate or whether he had already consulted with other Colombo Powers on the idea.

NEHRU'S CABLE
New Delhi, Dec. 15.
Mr Jawaharlal Nehru has urged the Chinese Communist Premier to receive Mr Dag Hammarskjold, the United Nations Secretary-General, for talks on the 11 American airmen gaoled as "spies," the Indian newspaper Statesman and the London Times correspondent reported today.

Peck, 38, is in Ireland, where he has been making the film "Moby Dick."

He and his wife, Greta, Finnish-born, were married in October 1942 and have three sons. They separated in January 1953.

Mrs Peck declared then it was impractical for them to remain together "and have the children travelling all over Europe."

He had been away from home for about a year at the time.

In her petition today Mrs Peck asked for custody of her sons but sought no alimony.

Mrs Peck's petition was filed



Gregory and Greta Peck in London.

GREGORY PECK'S WIFE SEEKS DIVORCE

Los Angeles, Dec. 14.

Film star Gregory Peck's wife petitioned for a divorce today, accusing him of causing her "grievous mental suffering, great embarrassment and humiliation."

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George, the Home Secretary. They want to put before him evidence of the prison doctor that Mrs Christie was suffering from a mental disease which they believed might have meant her being found guilty but insane had it been put to the court.

Sir Leslie Plummer and Mr Silverman said they had a report dated October 8 by Dr. W. Christie, Principal Medical Officer at Holloway Prison, based on the observation of Mrs Christie during the month she was under sentence.

Defect Of Reason
London, Dec. 14.
Some members of Parliament made an 11th-hour bid tonight to save the life of Mrs Sybil Churchill, 58-year-old daughter-in-law, Hilda, at their London flat, strangled her with a scarf, dragged her out to a yard and intended to burn her by pouring petrol over her.

The 11th-hour intervention came from the Conservative and Liberal parties, who have been instrumental in getting the 7th Hussars to accept the 11 American airmen.

Trooper G. David, 22, of the 7th Hussars, was killed and the driver, Trooper M. Stewart, 22, also of the 7th Hussars, was killed in a collision with a car.

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ECONOMIC AID FOR ASIA

Congressional Opposition To Outright Gifts

EISENHOWER AGREES TO CONSULT LEADERS

Washington, Dec. 14. Congressional opposition developed today to providing the free nations of Asia large outright gifts of economic aid such as Europe received under the Marshall Plan.

The opposition was expressed as President Eisenhower sought bipartisan support for expanded economic assistance to Asia at a White House conference of Republican and Democratic Congressional leaders.

The Administration has not outlined its plan in detail, but three Congressmen said they hope it does not develop into a "give-away" programme.

Senator Richard B. Russell (Democrat) said he would vote for increased technical assistance to Asia under the Point Four programme but feels that any attempt to improve the living standards of Asia's vast population with direct economic aid "is beyond our capacity."

Mr Vorys said that this may prove "embarrassing" to the United States.

WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH

Mr Vorys and Mr Richards, who also went on the five-week Asiatic trip, called for the withdrawal of the French from Vietnam and the use of American officers to build up an effective anti-Communist military force there.

Mr Richards said that Vietnam "is lost unless the French get out 100 per cent."

Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas, Democratic Party leader in the Senate, said today that President Eisenhower had agreed to consult Congressional leaders at various stages of planning the programme for economic aid to Asia.

Representative James P. Richards (Democrat), who becomes Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee next month, also urged that aid to Asia be limited to loans or technical assistance.

The Chairman, Alexander Wiley (Republican), who becomes Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he would support a new aid programme to Asia as "an insurance against war" but added, "I'm not in favour of a lot of excess spending."

DIFFERENCES

There have been differences within the Administration on the scope of a Far Eastern aid programme.

The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr George M. Humphrey, wants a modest programme limited to loans while the Secretary of State, Mr John Foster Dulles, and the Foreign Operations Director, Mr Harold Stassen, have urged a more extensive programme.

Monks and indigenous medical practitioners who were called in said the women had been "possessed of evil spirits" and they worked for several days to ensure that these spirits did not pass to the remainder of the family.—Reuter.

BARONET HIT WITH BOTTLE

Nairobi, Dec. 14. Sir Henry Dalrymple, 100 miles north of here, police reported to night.

A broken bottle was reported to have been used.

Tonight Sir Henry was in Mount Kenya hospital recovering from head injuries.

He is a former Wing Commander in the Royal Air Force and has been serving as a district officer in charge of Kikuyu guards.—Reuter.

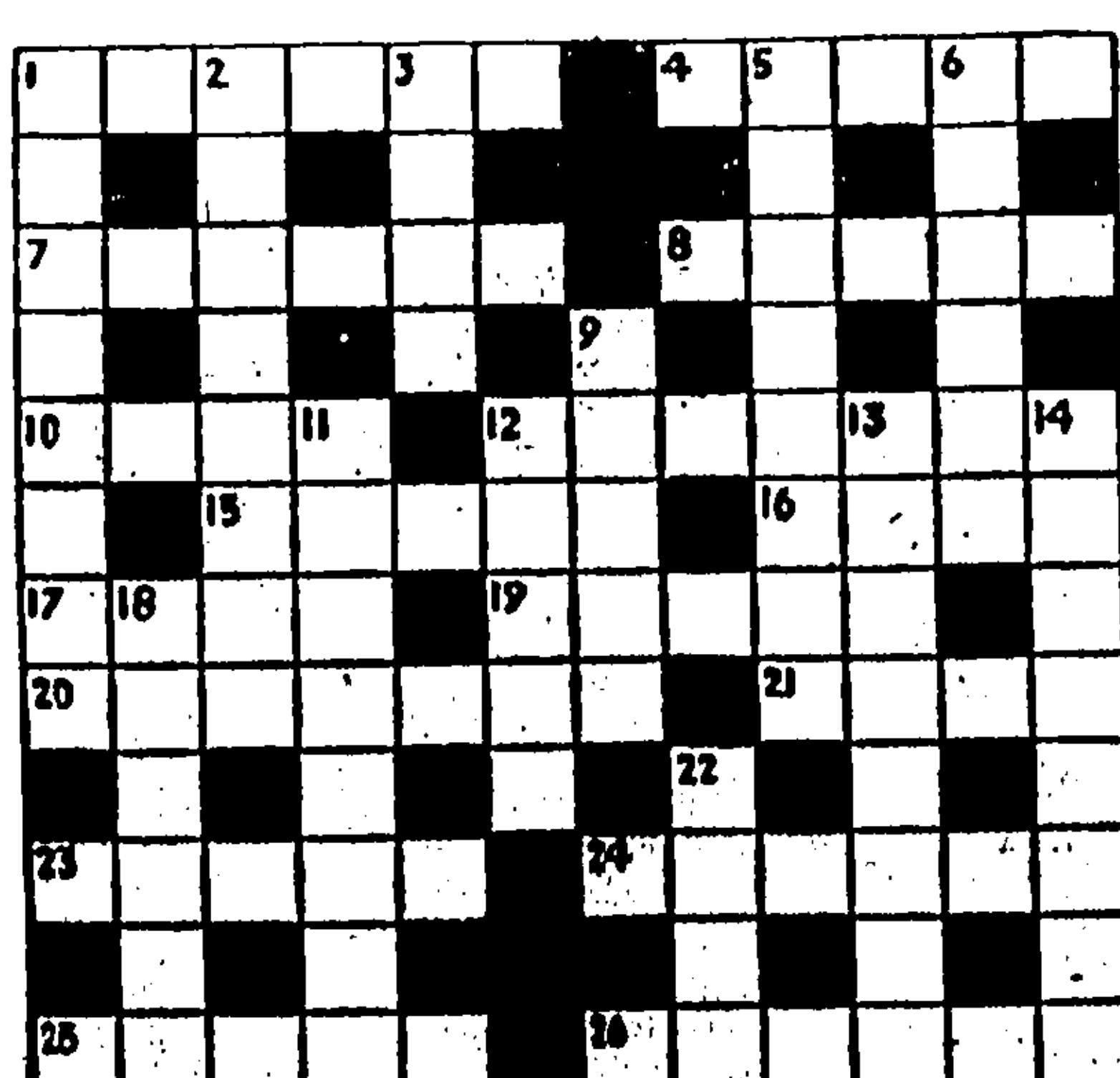
Laughed & Cried Then Died

Rangoon, Dec. 15. A woman and her daughter-in-law, living in a suburb of Rangoon, were recently taken ill with a strange complaint within a few hours of one another.

They alternately laughed and cried and tried to bite people for 48 hours, after which they both became unconscious and died within minutes of each other.

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A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Minister (6).
- Insignificant (6).
- Sample (6).
- Used in rowing (4).
- Exults (8).
- Walk unsteadily (6).
- Worth (5).
- Revolving (8).
- Challenged (6).
- Haggard (8).
- Made lower (6).
- Glimpses (6).
- Wine (4).
- Magie tower (7).
- Pase (4).
- Cloudy (6).
- Sterile (6).
- Custom (6).
- Necessity (6).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 3 Blessing, 6 Parrot, 9 Repelled, 11 Compared, 12 Edie, 13 Dribit, 18 Salom, 19 Chob, 22 Passport, 24 Bracelet, 25 Return, 26 Deisted, Down: 1 Spade, 2 Avon, 3 Berater, 4 Loo, 5 Beta, 6 Illusive, 7 Gadget, 10 Peril, 14 Banal, 15 Toasted, 16 Fortid, 17 Murray, 20 Bogus, 21 Stone, 23 Penn, 24 Barn.

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Lost Dogs' Replacement Service

Paris, Dec. 14. One of the biggest Parisian stores has just opened a "lost dogs department" as an added Christmas feature, at the suggestion of the French Society for the Protection of Animals and the Friends of Animals.

Among the fine Morocca leather collars, comfortable waterproofs and chintz-upholstered dog beds, there are in the stores a few cases bearing the inscription, "If you find my dog, please return him to me."

Twenty-two lost dogs have often being examined and treated in a special room in these cases looking for their owners. Some of them have been found within 24 hours.

The 22 dogs are now happy in new found homes.

The new owners only had to sign a promise of good treatment and faithfulness to the task they have undertaken.—France-Press.

LAST CHANCE

By opening a new inquiry on this murder — one of the most sensational in French court history — the Justice Minister would silence Gaston Dominici's fresh account of the murder-night so far remained a complete mystery.

The fact his defence lawyers considered it worthwhile to carry out a private "on the spot" investigation and then brought the matter before the Justice Minister is an indication they considered his new testimony might alter the whole bearing of the case.

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"CALLING ALL MOTHERS!"

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From hand to hand it passed for three centuries,
leaving a trail of tragedy... No wonder it was called

THE DIAMOND of DEATH

BILL McGOWRAN
tells another of
the World's
Strangest Stories

But there were still people with enough money and enough courage to risk the kiss of death by acquiring the now notorious jewel. It passed to a Greek jeweller who paid for his purchase by falling over a precipice but not before he had resold it to Abdul Hamid, the Sultan of Turkey.

"Abdul the Damned" shot his wife, Sultana Salma Zobeda, while she was wearing the Diamond of Death and soon afterwards was deposed from his throne. In 1909 the gem was sold to a Mr Habib, who was drowned at sea.

Fate struck swiftly and savagely at the next owner, Edward Besse McLean, an American newspaper millionaire, whose family owned the Washington Post. He bought it in 1911 for £50,000 (some reports put the price as high as £75,000) and gave it to his wife. Very shortly afterwards Mrs McLean saw their young son killed by a car in New York. She afterwards divorced her husband, who died in a mental home, his fortune gone.

I first became interested in this malevolent stone when I was a very small boy. Mother collected stage photographs as modern girls hoard film stars' autographs. One day in a volume called *Footlight Favourites*, she showed me a picture of a slim, dark-eyed charmer wearing a curious plantation costume—a wide straw-hat, blouse, and long striped trousers. The odd thing was that one trouser-leg was turned up to the knee while the other reached her calf. "That is May Yohe," said my mother. "She married the Duke of Newcastle, and wore the dreadful Hope Diamond, poor girl."

It was act as a brooch and was in the possession of the Hope family for nearly a century. The late Duke of Newcastle, who died in 1941, always scoffed at the story of the curse. "In my family there has never been any trial or ill-luck about the stone," he once said. "We never had any reason to believe in a curse."

At once my childish curiosity was fired. How could a diamond be dreadful? How could the pretty girl, with the strange surname and the funny trousers be a "poor thing" when she had married a Duke? I resolved there and then to learn the story of the Hope Diamond and I have been reading it chapter by chapter ever since.

For three centuries, since it was stolen from the eye of an idol in an Indian (some sources say Burmese) temple, the "Diamond of Death" has passed from hand to hand, leaving a trail of death and misfortune in its wake. The first victim was Tigray, the French conqueror who seized it from the head of the god. He died penniless after selling the stone to Louis XIV.

The Sultan of Turkey lent the diamond to an actress at the Folies Bergères. This fine dame died soon after but not steadily because she didn't have a strong heart.

Then came part of the history of the diamond, which is not clearly known but is interesting.

It was sold to a French



"That is May Yohe, said my mother. She wore the dreadful Hope Diamond, poor girl."

dealer, Harry Winston, for £250,000.

Mr Winston, who arrived in London recently, still owns the Hope Diamond. He has no superstitions.

Hollywood is contemplating a film based on its lurid history.

If that film is ever made there

should be plenty of meaty parts for the character actors—the Grand Monarch catching the diamond's blue gleam in the sunshine of Versailles. Abdul the Damned, raging in his harem, the passionate Russian prince aiming his pistol from his box in the Folies Bergère. But the star part, for me, would be a dark-eyed girl in striped trousers, one leg rolled to the knee, dancing round the stage of the old Gailey in a George R Sims' burlesque and singing "Linger Longer Lucy."

And if Hollywood needs a snappy title for this super-production I suggest "The Gem with a Jinx."

CHARLES ASKS FOR A BIKE

— AND CHOOSES IT

By Elizabeth Few

PRINCE CHARLES quickly over the carpeted floor. "This is the one. The very one," and he put his hand on the saddle.

Said Father Christmas: "I see I will have to make a special note of this."

Then Prince Charles walked round the Palace of Toys, mingling with other boys and girls who had arrived in the early morning to miss the shopping crush.

He saw a staircase covered with dolls of all descriptions, cuddly toy animals and an enormous tiger at the price of 16 guineas.

All these and many more toys Charles saw and admired. But all his eyes could really see was THE cycle. A red one.

And one could not help but wonder if he had measured it in his mind alongside the largest chimney at Sandringham.

Melville, the man who usually opens the door for members of the Royal Family, when they visit, almost failed to notice the young Santa Claus.

Prince Charles has been well-reared and he knew two years

NATHANIEL GUBBINS

A LIBERTY, THE ROBOT COLUMNIST, was in a difficult mood when we began our work. His first fan mail from two women had gone to his head.

When you have finished reading your letters again, Albert, perhaps we could consider the news?

But it's terrific. One girl says I'm wonderful. The other says she loves me.

Don't take remarks like that too seriously, Albert.

Perhaps I'll be famous.

Two fan letters won't make you famous, Albert.

This is only a beginning. Maybe I'll go on television, on the films, on the stage. Perhaps I'll be like Frankie Laine with thousands of beautiful women crying on my shoulder.

Let's get back to the affairs of the day, Albert. What have you been reading about this morning?

Marilyn Monroe.

There are more important things to read about than Marilyn Monroe. There is the rearmament of Germany which is making some people happy and many more unhappy. There is the dock strike which is making everybody unhappy. What in your opinion would make all men happy in this confusing world?

Marilyn Monroe.

There is also the humiliating defeat of the Arsenal football team in Moscow. Do you think it was because we sent a second-rate team to play first-rate team, or do you think that English football generally is on the decline? If so, what do you think English footballers need to improve their play?

Marilyn Monroe.

Although Gladstone died soon after Gubbins was born, he was still the hero of our little home, where his portrait, grim and glowering, hung on the wall beside the fly-blown, but more genial, features of John Bright.

When the hungry little Gubbins tried to gobble his dinner, he was pulled up sharply with the reminder that the great Mr Gladstones took 40 bites at every mouthful of the grilled chop he had every day for his lunch at the House of Commons.

It was this habit of slow and thoughtful mastication which had apparently kept him fit at an advanced age and maintained his stomach in a calm and strong condition to make long speeches in Parliament and have an occasional up-and-downer with Queen Victoria, never a popular figure in our family. The implication was that if greedy little boys bolted their food like pigs with their noses in the plate they would never be great men like Mr Gladstone.

I am talking of training, Albert.

So am I.

Albert, I have spoken to you before about innocents.

What's imminent about a dinner dance for footballers with Marilyn Monroe before a match? It would give them a kick most of them haven't got.

I doubt if you really meant that. But let it pass. To change the subject, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has doubled the foreign travel allowance, which means that if you and I had a holiday we could spend quite a long time abroad. What country would you like to meet?

Marilyn Monroe.

No, Albert. Please don't mention that woman's name again.

Don't talk like that about Marilyn.

Albert, it's not an insult to call a woman a woman.

It's the way you said it. Albert, are you in love with Marilyn Monroe?... Speak up. I think she's what?

Smashing.

My poor Albert. You are in love. No wonder you can't work today. But you'll soon get over it.

No, I won't.

Perhaps she'll write to you one day.

Do you think she will?

You never wonder. Then you can write back. What shall you say?... Don't be shy.... Whisper if you like.

Pass me six pence please.

Albert, how dare you?

Heh, heh, heh, heh, heh.

That coarse laugh again.

Heh, heh, heh, heh, heh, heh.

Following up his advantage, the horrid little Gubbins then wanted to know how Gladstone found time to make long speeches unless he was chewing one of his chops at the same time. If he was still munching and picking his teeth, when he had a grumpy audience with Queen Victoria, and was that the reason why she couldn't bear the sight of him?

In the end his weary, hysterical family abandoned the argument and let Gubbins gobble his way to dyspepsia and comparative obscurity.

Another story of that period is the little Gubbins never believed

was the one about female royalty having their faces painted with pink enamel every morning to make them look fit and fresh whatever the state of their health.

Again he wanted to know all the facts; who put the enamel on and how did they clip it off at night with a hammer and chisel, what happened with the female royalties ate an apple, and did the enamel go crack-crack when they laughed? And again the family gave best to the tireless investigator.

But when Gubbins went to school a year later and this schoolmaster told him that Dickens wrote two novels at the same time the little cynic took it straight, believing that Dickens wrote one book with his right hand and another with his left simultaneously.

Deeply interested, Gubbins tried it out when the old man took it straight, believing that Dickens wrote one book with his right hand and another with his left simultaneously.

Then he hit on the idea of feeding Dickens at his own table. He had the schoolmaster write a note to Dickens, telling him that he wanted to write a new novel.

Dickens wrote three lines, two of writing and one of drawing, and the schoolmaster was pleased.

A possible explanation is that Dickens was a very good artist and could draw well.

JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Look At the Cards
Then Decide Play

By OSWALD JACOBY

"How would South play the accompanying hand?" asks San Francisco correspondent. "West opened the king of diamonds, continued with the jack of diamonds, and then led the ten of diamonds at the third trick."

"South ruffed the third diamond in his hand, discarding the jack of clubs from the dummy. He considered an immediate finesse of dummy's jack of hearts, but decided instead to play the ace and king of trumps. This turned out to be fatal."

"If declarer then led a third trump, West would win with the queen and lead another diamond. Dummy would run out of trump, and West would win a second trick and two more diamonds. And if declarer abandoned trumps, West would eventually make two trumps tricks to set the contract."

"Some of the kibitzers there are many of this species in San Francisco, and we will back their lunging against the best that the East can produce," argued that South should have begun the trumps by finessing the jack. Is this correct?"

An immediate finesse would work, of course, in the cards lie. After all, a kibitzer doesn't have to recommend a little bit of play until he has seen all of the cards, and he shouldn't make many mistakes under those conditions.

If you happen to be playing the hand without the advantage of seeing all the cards, the best



YOUR BIRTHDAY ... By STELLA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

BORN today, you are a natural scholar, with the additional talent for imparting your knowledge. You have a high spiritual quality which might be lacking in others. You are able to present your idea forcefully, both in speech and writing, and are accurate and painstaking in detail. You have a pleasing personality which makes you popular with everyone and causes everyone to forget that you are less attractive than others as well as with yourself. You are, to a high degree, a perfectionist and want only the best.

While your memory for facts is good, you sometimes have difficulty in recalling the names of people. You are, actually, inclined to be somewhat absent-minded about everyday things, but when you get so wrapped up in the execution of an idea, that your concentration is excellent.

Among those born on this date are: Maxwell Anderson, playwright; Edmund Gwenn, author; Fred Astaire, dancer and educator; George Romney, artist and Charles F. Young, astronomer.

To find what the stars have in store for you, consult your birthday star and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

DECEMBER 16

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)—Side-step even the appearance of an argument with those you love. Compromises are needed.

CARCINUS (June 22-July 22)—You will be able to fight successfully against any obstacle which crosses your path today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)—Better for you not to make any important decisions at this time. Normal routine proves more rewarding.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)—Proceed with care. Some details are really important until tomorrow. Consider everything carefully; make no decisions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)—Get all your important work done before lunch time. The afternoon hours are not too propitious.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)—Diplomacy and tactful persuasion will be of more avail today, than aggressive forcefulness.

TAURUS (April 21-May 20)—Stay clear of romantic entanglements which you may regret later on. Be very sure, before you commit yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)—For you, this can prove an exciting day. Your wisdom in developing a new idea should be good.

• BY • THE • WAY • by Beachcomber

NORTH	18
♦ AKJ3	
♦ AKJ10	
♦ 85	
♦ A QJ	
WEST (D)	EAST
♦ 10	♦ 8742
♦ Q 84	♦ 3
♦ AKQJ 10 3	♦ 764
♦ K 4	♦ 9761
SOUTH	
♦ Q 65	
♦ 9752	
♦ 92	
♦ 10 853	
North-South vul. West North East South	
1 ♦ Double Pass 1 ♦	
2 ♦ 4 ♦ Pass Pass	
Pass	
Opening lead—♦ K	

play is neither to finesse nor to lay down the ace and king of a trump. You should lead a trump to dummy's ace and then return the Jack of trumps. This loses to the queen, of course, but it leaves a trump in your own hand and two trumps in the dummy.

As the cards lie, West wins with the queen of trumps but cannot gain by leading another diamond. You would ruff a diamond in your own hand, get to dummy with a club, draw the last two trumps, and claim the rest. If West returns anything but a diamond, you can draw trumps and get to your hand with a spade to take the marked club finesse.

The trouble with taking an immediate trump finesse is that West may have two, three, or four small trumps and a void in spades. East would win the first trump trick and return a spade, whereupon the contract would be defeated by the ruff.

Most of this danger is avoided by the recommended line of play; and this play also guards against the actual danger of four trumps to the queen in the West hand.

CARD Sense

Q.—With neither side vulnerable, the bidding has been: South West North East 1 Spade Pass 2 Clubs 2 Diamonds.

You, South, hold: Spades A-K-Q-J-9-7-5, Hearts K-9, Diamond 7, Clubs K-8-3. What do you do?

A.—Bid four spades. This violent jump to game shows a very strong suit and a good hand, but it indicates that the first move towards slam must come from your partner. If he has two or more aces, he will make a slam try; and with fewer than two aces, even though he may have a good hand, he will just pass four spades.

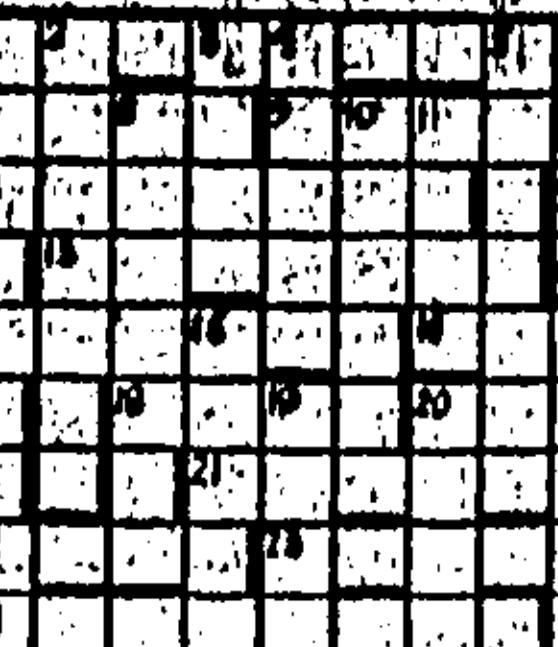
Answer Tomorrow

DUMB-BELLS

HER HUSBAND IS A TERRIBLE DRINKER. I NEVER KNEW HE DRANK.



CROSSWORD



Answers

- 1. Song by Coventry. (9)
- 2. It helps to get you places. (10)
- 3. Denim or cotton fabric. (10)
- 4. The result is lured out. (7)
- 5. Anton keeps apart two Americans. (10)
- 6. Many think highly of a man sent here. (6)
- 7. Two never have hidden there. (10)
- 8. In other places. (8)
- 9. Didn't subtract one of the pennies. (6)
- 10. In the film. (3)
- 11. Tremor is on its way here. (5)
- 12. Lady who goes hot fireman. (6)
- 13. They're apt to be blamed for our weather. (8)

Down

- 1. Are these the leaders of the fortune tellers? (10)
- 2. This is a may show in your handshake. (7)
- 3. February, they say, is the month for it. (6)
- 4. Sounds like the race meeting were definitely not for a Sasquatch. (6)
- 5. Help! (7)
- 6. It's a good idea. (10)
- 7. If there's one too many, maybe the bus won't start. (7)
- 8. She's not missing from the note, but she's still thinking to believe in. (10)
- 9. Storm god of the north. (4)
- 10. Song for the woodwind. (5)
- 11. Wrinkle. (4)
- 12. Low tide. (4)

SOLUTION

TO CHECK

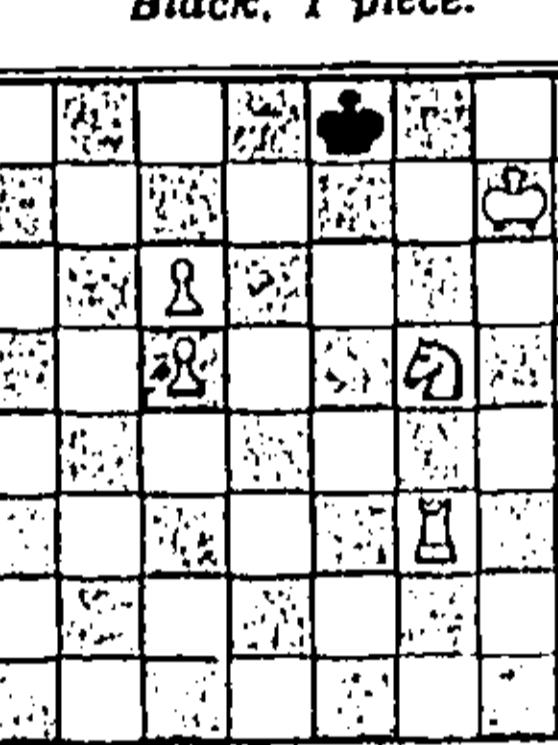
YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

INDOCORUM
QUECHUAS
ANCHOBITE
USEDOOLGAT
GHINNING
UOVIELEMIRE
RAINRIGID
AMNESTYED
ULGSWIPE

CHESS PROBLEM

By E. ZEPFER

Black, 1 piece.



White, 5 pieces.

White to play: mate in three.

Solution to yesterday's problem:

1. Kt-e5, any; 2. Q, R, Kt, or P mates.

WOMANSENSE

VITAL STATISTICS OF

THE AVERAGE MISS FRANCE



Paris. Her hair is mostly Brunette, ranging from auburn through blonde. Only 15 percent of French women are natural blondes. The other shades of purple, green, orange and such stuff are often seen on the boulevards of Paris come out of dye bottles.

Most French female complexion are Brunette and their skin generally is clear.

Nine out of 10 French women have almond noses, and 73 percent have light eyes, which range from "grey" to grey-blue, grey-green, orange-brown to green."

118 Different Angles

For, since 1911, there had been no really scientific survey of the measurements of the average Frenchwoman.

But that now has been corrected, for Mademoiselle Suzanne De Felice has just come up with a comprehensive survey of the French female vital statistics.

Mme. De Felice has submitted to the Academy of Science a 350-page thesis for a doctor of philosophy degree titled, "Research on the Anthropology of French Women."

The work represents six and a half years of effort, and it covers everything that is worth knowing about the face, form and figure of the average Miss France since 1911.

The conclusion is that the long, low wolf-whistle is justified in ogling the French female chassis.

Aristocratic Fingers

Mme. De Felice says that Miss France is an average five feet three inches tall and weighs 123 pounds.

The weight is elegantly distributed. Bustwise, Miss France ranges from "medium" to "ample" to "magnificent."

Her waist is narrow and her hips are rather broad. Her legs and arms are of average length; her fingers long, slim and aristocratic." Her fingernails in natural state vary in shade from light pink to deep rose, and so roughen the board.

Household Hint

The sides of a pastry board that is used for rolling dough should not be used for cutting purposes or any purpose that will damage the smooth surface. Never leave such a board soaking in water because moisture will raise the grain of the wood and so roughen the board.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

Here's a Riddle for You

—Knauf and Handi Guessed Two Answers—

By MAX TRELL

HANID, the shadow-girl with the turned-about name, looked all around the house for her brother Knauf. Finally she found him sitting way up in the attic behind an old trunk.

"Knauf, what are you doing up here?"

Pondering Over A Riddle

AS I kicked open the swinging doors of the saloon silence fell on the bar-room. Card-players, quick on the draw, looked at me sideways. Lindy Lou, in a glittering gown, smiled her mysterious smile. The sheriff came towards me. I turned to go. I shot him dead. Two bad men stole up behind me. I ducked and shot them dead, backwards, through my legs. A card-player threw a knife.

"Knauf, what are you doing up here?"

Mr Punch said: "I'm seen by you not from the subject?"

Myself: Wild Sam Beach-comber rides again! Yippee!

So I shot the sheriff

She was surprised to hear another voice answering: "Let him alone, Hanid! He's thinking about."

But Knauf kept silently sitting and silently thinking on the floor, with his back against his trunk.

Finally Hanid and Mr Punch stopped in front of the dusty window.

"Well," said Hanid, "I can think of several things that look like 'O' and several things that look like 'C'. A rubber ball looks like the 'O'."

"A riddle," said Mr Punch.

"Oh," said Hanid.

"It's a very hard riddle," said Mr Punch. "I've been thinking about it since early this morning. Now it's night time, and I still haven't got the answer. Knauf hasn't got the answer either."

"A riddle," said Mr Punch.

"It's a penny looks like 'O'."

"A bent nail looks like 'C'."

"Now I'm an O. Now I'm a C."

Another Solution

"It must be the moon!" said Knauf.

Knauf looked out at the dark sky with the clouds flying across the face of the moon.

"And so does the moon look like 'O,'" said Knauf.

Knauf suddenly let out a shout. "The moon! That's the answer!"

"Well," said Mr Punch.

"There's nothing like trying."

Then he spoke the riddle out loud:

Now I'm an O.
Now I'm a C.
I'm seen by U.
What can I be?"

Hard to Solve

"My, that is a hard riddle, isn't it?" said Knauf.

"It certainly is," said Mr Punch.

Knauf repeated to himself:

Now I'm an O.
Now I'm a C.

She kept repeating this line over and over again.

"My, that is a hard riddle, isn't it?" said Knauf.

"It certainly is," said Mr Punch.

Knauf repeated to himself:

Now I'm an O.
Now I'm a C.

She kept repeating this line over and over again.

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"CARTHAGE"	6th Jan., 1955	8th Feb., 1955
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Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
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Kobe/Pusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

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PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL

Steam Navigation Company

R.M.S. "CORFU"

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

New "CHANDRA" Arrived 14th December, 1954

Damaged cargo on this vessel will be
survived by Modern Goddard &
Company, Hong Kong & Co. Ltd. on
Friday 18th December and Saturday,
19th December, 1954, and consignees
will be requested to be present during survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWINEY
Agents,
Australian-Oriental Line Ltd.
China Navigation Co. Ltd.

London, Dec. 15.

Many industries in East

China have increased production

considerably because more private firms

have joined state-owned

enterprises, according to a

report in the Tientsin Ta

Kung Pao.

This increase was due to

directives on the State's general

task during the transitional

period towards Socialism, it

claimed.

The newspaper said more

capitalists have been convinced

that joint state-private ownership

was "the correct path to

follow for privately-owned enter-

prises."

Work on the transformation

of privately-owned enterprises

into joint state-private ownership

was increasing, the paper

said.

This was especially so in

the iron and steel smelting industry,

chemical processing, machine

manufacturing works, the

electric power industry, the

textile industry and others.

China Mail Special.

throughout the nation, fore-

cast the atomic radiation by

which such foods as meats,

bread and pastries, will

remain fresh without the

need of sub-zero freezing.

Such foodstuffs have al-

ready been successfully

preserved in this fashion.

More than 1,000 volunteer

researchers in the U.S. have

eaten radiated food with no ill

effects. However, some hurdles

have to be overcome before the

techniques can be applied com-

mercially—including taste and

odour problems.

Modern science also has

some words of encouragement

especially directed toward the

fairer sex. For example: wives

whose husbands snore should

cheered by the knowledge that

those weird night noises actually

may be a sign of deep affection.

The theory advanced in a

recent seminar of the British

Medical Association is that men

snore because they uncon-

sciously recall the prehistoric

days when males made sounds

to protect their wives from

being molested by intruders

prowling around their caves.

But maybe the Little Woman

doesn't need this encouragement

after all—because results of an-

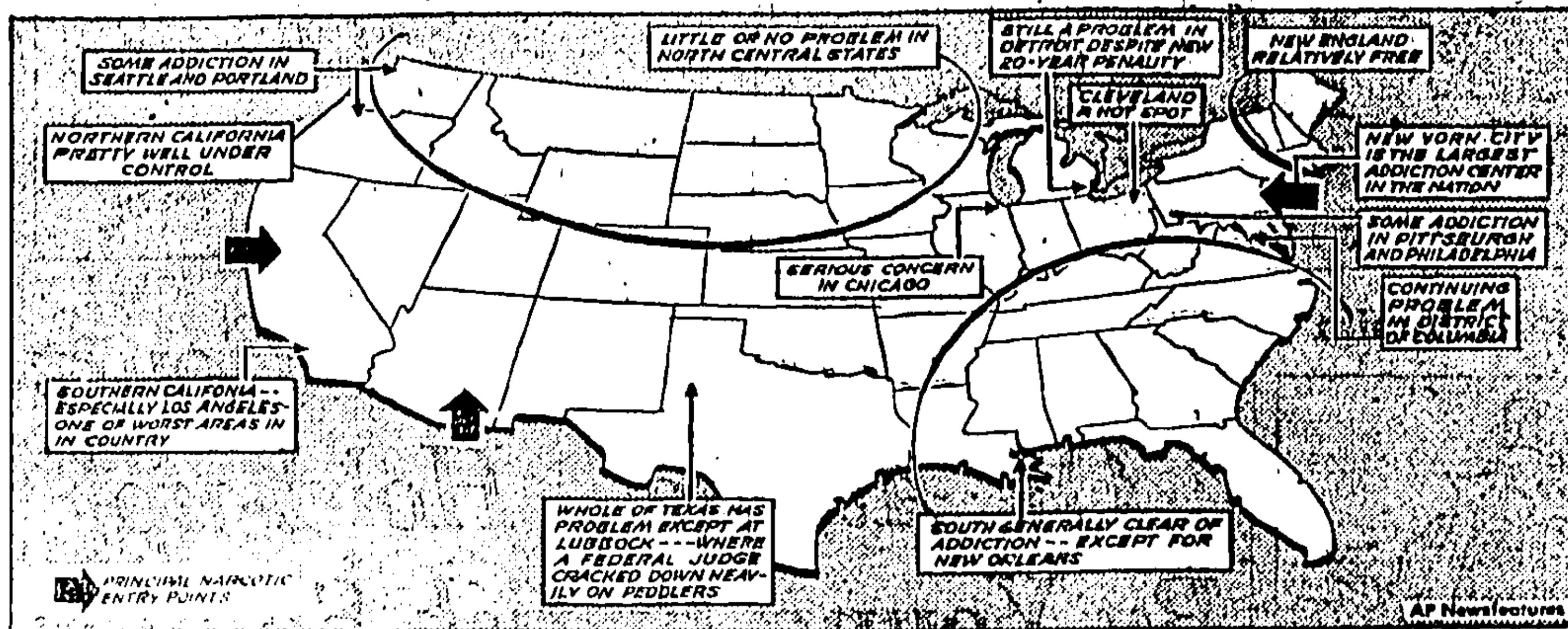
other bit of scientific research

indicate she's apt to be more

optimistic about marriage than

her husband. A New York re-

search firm asked



The Narcotics Problem: A Spotty But Dangerous Scourge

By HERMAN R. ALLEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWSFEATURES WRITER

Although great areas in the United States are relatively free of illegal narcotics, addiction to drugs is one of the most brutal social problems confronting the United States.

President Eisenhower dramatically demonstrated the extent of his concern by setting up a special Cabinet-level committee to determine the precise extent of addiction and recommend ways to combat it.

As illustrated by the map above, based on information from a Government source, narcotics use follows no definite pattern. According to the U.S. Commissioner of Narcotics, Mr Harry J. Anslinger, there are large sections where the scourge is practically unknown: New England, most of the southern states, the north central region and the northwest. The Bureau of Narcotics doesn't even have agents in Montana or Utah.

However, the picture is drastically different in the big cities of heavily populated sections. Mr Anslinger cites New York as the largest addiction center in the United States, and rates the Los Angeles area second. Cleveland and Detroit are both hot spots although the Ohio legislature recently ordered the state's Attorney General to recommend legislation and Michigan approved a new 20-year penalty for illegal traffic.

Chicago is the only spot in Illinois where addiction ever was severe, and, according to Mr Anslinger, it is now controlled fairly well at the city level. Serious traffic in St Louis, Mr Anslinger says, has been stopped by the severe sentences issued by Federal Judge Roy Harper.

Been Worse

Despite the seriousness of the narcotics problem today, it has in the past been even worse. During World War I one out of every 1,500 draftees was rejected because of dope addiction. World War II rejections came to only one out of 10,000.

The Cabinet committee Mr Eisenhower set up to deal with narcotics has five members—Secretary of the Treasury, Mr Humphrey, under whom work the 200 agents of the Bureau of Narcotics; Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Mr Hobby, under whose jurisdiction are narcotic addict hospitals at Lexington, Ky., and Ft. Worth, Tex.; Secretary of Defense, Mr Wilson, concerned by addiction among draft selectees and servicemen; Atty. Gen., Mr Brownell, who directs prosecution of narcotic law violators; and Secretary of State, Mr Dulles, responsible for American observance of international narcotics agreements.

This committee, named as its executive secretary Mr David P. Page, reported to the Secretary of the Treasury. Although on the job only a couple of weeks, Mr. Page already has started towards his first goal: more information. Letters have gone out to all state governors asking them to assemble data from state and local sources and make it available to the committee. "Right now we need," Mr. Page said in an interview, "are what you might call reliable court records—arrests of addicts and admissions to hospitals, whether people who have been cured of addiction have stayed cured and so on."

"Few people realize it, but most federal activity in the narcotics field is based on tax laws. These laws do not go after the addict at all, although many of them reach the addict as they are enforced."

"We have plenty of statistics on narcotics tax law matters, and a good many from the Defense Department and Selective Service reflecting addiction rates. These statistics are in apple-pie order, but we must add figures from the states and, of course, try to get a true picture of the opium poppy."

Uniform Law

Forty-three states and the District of Columbia have adopted what is called the "uniform state law," which in general follows the Harrison Act, differing principally in licensing details and provisions for penalties. The five states not using the uniform act have what Mr Anslinger says are state laws at least as good. The narcotics commissioner adds the best state law of all is New Jersey's.

What can be done about addiction? In a book, "The Traffic Narcotics," Mr Anslinger and Mr William F. Tompkins, U.S. attorney for the New Jersey District, write:

Uniform Law

"There is no excuse for any state to have a law which is in any way weaker than the Boggs Act." (Several states, they add, have passed laws duplicating the Boggs Act).

To make a law aimed at addiction effective, Mr Anslinger and Mr Tompkins say, addict violators should not receive parole for less than five years and should be required to take hospitalization with subsequent monthly examinations.

They recommend that maximum sentences be levied against peddlers, especially in cases involving minors; that "bargain pleas" in efforts to lighten sentences not be accepted, and that every case, no matter how small, be presented to a grand jury and vigorously prosecuted.

"Strong laws, good enforcement, stiff sentences and a proper hospitalization programme are the necessary foundations. These, plus an alert and determined public, will go a long way towards blotting out the problem."

"There is no excuse for any state to have a law which is in any way weaker than the Boggs Act." (Several states, they add, have passed laws duplicating the Boggs Act).

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In 2,000 A.D. Oslo Traffic Problem Will Be Solved

Oslo, Dec. 14.

A new underground railway, starting in the east end of Oslo and emerging above ground to serve the new suburban housing districts east and north of the town, has been proposed as a means of solving the transport and traffic problems resulting from the rapid increase in the population of the Norwegian capital.

But there is by no means unanimous approval for this plan, worked out by the municipal planning office for underground and suburban transport and estimated to cost about 220,000,000 kroner (nearly £11,500,000).

An expert committee appointed to report on the plan expressed the opinion that the possibility of surface transport, facilitated by new wide main exits roads, should be investigated before such big capital investments were made.

Oslo is not a big city or capital cities go. The present population with adjoining suburbs is estimated at something over 600,000. But it is a rapidly expanding town, so rapid that neither housing nor transport have been able to keep up with development since World War II. Official statistics put the increase in population between 1940 and 1950 at over 61 per cent.

Many of the new housing estates which, after the wartime lull and the first postwar period of shortages, are now growing up like mushrooms, are situated in the eastern and northern outskirts of the town. It is particularly in this direction that transport has been least developed.

As more and more families move out to the new dormitory estates, the already overworked bus services to the centre of the town get more and more crowded. Every day now thousands of workers struggle on to packed buses and strap-hang their way to work in the utmost discomfort.

The underground plan, designed to help the "east-enders," is based on the building of a large underground station beneath the big Gronland meat market.

Sketches suggest that it will be similar to London's Piccadilly Circus station, with exits to various neighbouring streets and a big ticket hall halfway down to the train level.

Like the existing underground station, the actual distance below ground would not be very great. But it would be sufficient to bring the trains up above ground well clear of the houses. This, it is said, from these days would provide in itself sufficient shelter, instead of the existing, ill-constructed

and often dangerous, methods of getting to and from the street.

The long-term plan is that a further stretch of underground tunnel should be built joining up

the Gronland station with the present National Theatre station so that passengers could travel right through from east to west vice versa.

But while the planners estimate that the first part of the project, the Gronland station and the eastward underground line could be completed by around 1961, it is not anticipated that the whole underground network under the centre of the town could be finished before around the year 2000.

★

The tunnelling work involves considerable geological difficulties. Under the town itself, there are large deposits of what is regarded as the world's most difficult clay. This phenomenon is connected with the lack of salt in the earth caused by glacial movements at the close of the Ice Age.

As long as clay has a normal salt content, it is solid and firm, but where the salt has been washed out, it has become a most unstable base. In the centre of the town this base may stretch to a depth of 30 metres (over 100 feet), and further east even down to 100 metres (over 300 feet).

Methods have been found, however, of countering this problem. If sufficient salt is administered to the clay it becomes hard and firm as before, and these methods will have to be used when the new tunnels are being bored.

It is estimated that the planned Gronland underground station and the eastward underground line could in the first stage carry about 35,000 passengers an hour—a figure regarded today as Utopian.

But the whole project has still to be approved by the City Council who, they find, the capital authority, believe that the inhabitants of Oslo are not inclined to give much money in building new and wider exit roads—Gronland Mall Special.

★

This journey is also usually undertaken by multi-hour traffic jams. There are a great many new housing areas on the west side of the city, too, but these are already much better served by the existing underground electric surface trams and subways.

The existing underground was completed in 1938. Estimated

to the limit to which duties and import restrictions could be modified, or continued at present standards, without threatening serious injury to a domestic industry.

Witnesses told the Tariff Commission that they could not hope to compete on the home market against the low prices of foreign glassware imports.

The Commission today opened hearings on the subject of import duties and restrictions. The Commission's job was to report to President Eisenhower on:

1. The limit to which duties and import restrictions could be modified, or continued at present standards, without threatening serious injury to a domestic industry.

2. Whether increases in duties or increased restrictions were necessary to protect domestic industry, and the minimum increases needed in such cases.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

At the same time, the Government's Committee for Reciprocal Information was holding hearings on the plans of the Eisenhower Administration to negotiate a reciprocal trade agreement with Japan next year.

Witnesses before the Tariff Commission were submitting similar statements to the Committee.

One of the first witnesses today, Mr Marshall Glavin, representing one of the United States' biggest handmade glass manufacturing companies, said the present Tariff Commission's hearings would decide whether such handmade industry continues to exist in the United States, or American handmade glass plants are driven out of business.

If we don't survive, who is there to manufacture these items so necessary for our national security?" Mr Gleason said.

Mr Gleason said that American superiority in ingenuity and technological process could not make up the leeway that foreign competitors enjoyed in low wage rates.

The worker in a United States factory earned between 172 cents and 560 cents an hour compared with the average Japanese who earned only 28.8 cents an hour—China Mail Special.

Trading in the spot month will end in the noon hour tomorrow. Trading volumes and open interests in the Exchanges today were:

Month	Volume	Open interest
Dec.	8,700	19,700
Mar.	10,000	8,800
May	20,100	1,000,100
July	5,020	143,400
Oct.	1,000	124,300
Dec.	1,000	26,000
May	3,000	24,000
Total	100,000	2,877,200 bales

NEW YORK

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Sept.	35,000	34,41-44
Mar.	10,000	34,41-44
May	20,000	34,48-50
July	3,000	34,67-68
Dec.	1,000	34,80
Mar.	1,000	34,73
May	3,000	34,60

NEW ORLEANS

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Sept.	34,25b	34,07-48
Mar.	10,000	34,07-48
May	20,000	34,72
July	3,000	34,73
Dec.	1,000	34,81
Mar.	1,000	34,74
May	3,000	34,81

Official values were all unchanged.

Sao Paulo cotton prices were not received.—United Press.

LIVERPOOL

Future closings, American middling, 15/16 inch, in pence per lb., were as follows:

Dec./Jan.	31.89
Mar./Apr.	32.10
May	32.00
July/Aug.	32.00
Oct./Nov.	31.84

Official values were all unchanged.

Stocks today closed 5 to 10 points higher with sales of 147 contracts.

About 80 per cent of the floor business was represented by exchanges of March contracts for four sheets in the actual market.

Otherwise the spot market failed to pick up leading factories marking time. Shipments offerings were in light supply and above a working basis. Spot No. 1 flax was quoted at 284 cents a pound.

Future closings were:

Dec.	31.89
Mar.	32.10
May	32.00
July	32.00
Sept.	32.00

New York flour 500 m. sacs.

